(b) if so, the when the last negotiation were held with them;

(c) the amount demanded by Asiasat for leasing a transponder; and

(d) the likely amount of lease now to be paid to Asiasat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Negotiations can be revived only if any offer is received from ASIASAT.

(b) 13th December, 1991.

(c) U. S. Dollars 1.7 million per year.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of Pellets to Japan and Australia

6097. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. has signed any contract for supply of pellets to Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether KIOCL has signed a long term contract with Australia for supply of pellets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. KIOCL has signed a long term contract with Japanese Steel Mills for supply of a firm quantity of 2.80 lakh tonnes and an optional quantity of 1.20 lakh tonnes of pellets per annum during the year 1991 to 1995.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. KIOCL has signed a long term contract with an Australian party for supply of a firm quantity of 3 lakh tonnes with an optional quantity o 1.50 lakh tonnes per annum of pellets for a period of 4 years commencing from 1991-92.

Casual Producers with Calcutta Doordarshan

6098. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Calcutta Doordarshan has been paying ten days remuneration to the casual production who have been working for twenty five days in a month; and

(b) Whether the authorities have changed their designation from Casual Production Assistants to Ground Workers; and

(c) if so, the facts in details in regard to part (a) and (b) and

(d) The action taken to include those artists for developmental involvement and proper working participation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. According to information furnished by DG; Doordarshan the designation of causal Production Assistant has not been changed to ground workers. The number of Production Assistants booked on casual basis is restricted to the number of vacancies available in the grade at the time of such bookings, which may differ from time to time. The ground workers are engaged to do some causal nature of work depending upon the requirement of programmes. While Casual Production Assistants are booked for not more 10 days in a month on rotation basis, the ground workers are booked on programme basis.

(d) As the ground workers are booked to do casual nature of work on programme basis, there cannot be any development

involvement and working participation by them.

Gauge Readers in C. W. C.

6099. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gauge readers working in the Central Water Commission have been categorised as regular and work-charged;

(b) if so, the when such categorisation has come into force;

(c) the criteria followed in categorising the gauge readers; and

(d) the pay scales of these categories of gauge readers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Prior to 22nd April 1988, Gauge Readers working in the Central Water Commission (CWC) had been categorised as regular and work-charged. With effect from 22nd April 1988, the category of work-charged Gauge Reader has been merged with the category of Khalasi.

(d) They pay scale of Gauge Readers in the regular establishment in CWC is Rs 775.1025. The pay scale of Khalasi, the category in which work-charged Gauge Readers have been merged, is Rs. 750-940.

Telecom Corporations for Calcutta and Madras

6100. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to convert Madras, Calcutta and Andhra Telecom circles into public sector corporations on the lines of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Corporations are likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. However, the Athreya Committee Report on reorganisation of Telecom Department is under the consideration of the Government, wherein it has been recommended that the Department of Telecommunication should be restructured into 6 Public Corporations, namely, India Telecom Operating Corporation as holding Company, 4 zonal corporations with Headquarters at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and one Long Distance Corporation with Headquarters at Hyderabad

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of the reply in part (a) above.

Sriram Sagar Canal, A. P.

6101. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to